Development of fisheries in Bihar

1489. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Bihar has potential for the development of fisheries in the State;

(b) whether Government have conducted survey in Bihar for developing fisheries there;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have earmarked funds for this purpose for the State of Bihar;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which Government propose to tap the fisheries potential of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government have arranged to carry out a few studies and survey on the inland fishery potential in the country including Bihar. According to these studies inland fishery potential of Bihar is as follows:

(i) Rivers and Canals—3200 kms.

(ii) Reservoirs—0.75 lakh ha.

(iii) Tanks & Ponds—0.95 lakh ha.

(iv) Oxbow Lakes (Beels) and Derelict Water Bodies—0.40 lakh ha.

(f) For development of fishery in the State of Bihar 39, Fish Farmers Development Agencies, 3 Fish Seed Farm and 2 Sewage Fed Fish Farms have been sanctioned by Govt. of India under Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Besides this there is a proposal to take up development of Oxbow Lakes in Bihar from 1992-93 onwards with World Bank assistance.

Loss due to floods

1490. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge losses are being incurred by the country every year due to floods; and

(b) if so, what plans Government have formulated to control the floods and save the country from recurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India set up Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in April, 1972 for formulating comprehensive plans of flood control for rivers of the Ganga Basin. The GFCC has completed comprehensive plans for 23 sub-basins.

For tackling the problem of flood in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys the Government of India constituted the Brahmaputra Board in December, 1981 charging it with the responsibility of Survey, investigation and preparation of Master Plans for control of floods in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys and for taking up projects with the approval of the Government of India. The Board has a programme of preparing master plans separately for Main Brahmaputra. Main Barak and 38 tributaries of Brahmaputra and 10 rivers of Tripura. Two parts of Master Plan (for main Brahmaputra and Main Barak have been finalised.

The Government of India constituted two Committees in November, 1987, one for the North Eastern States and the other for the States of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to consider the problem of floods and flood management measures required in the States, to review flood protection measures taken and suggest remedial measures as necessary. On receipt of this report, the Empowered Committee was set up to facilitate